



 **Collective Worship Policy**

**‘Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day’**

<b>Reviewed By</b>	Nita Hearne	Policy Owner	July 2018
<b>Approved By</b>	Cate Gregory	Head of School	July 2018
<b>Ratified by</b>	Andy Powell	Governor	July 2018
<b>NEXT REVIEW</b>			July 2021

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, can join together to consider, reflect on and discuss events, issues and interests, and also share and enjoy celebrations. Collective Worship offers the school community an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences, providing opportunities for the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**Collective Worship at Shirley Infant School**

The daily act of Collective Worship at Shirley Infant School follows the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that Collective Worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. While adhering to these requirements we also ensure that our opportunities for Collective Worship also reflect other religious traditions that are represented within our school and the wider community. Parents have the right, under the 1988 Education Reform Act, to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. It is a legal requirement that all children attend unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw.

**Aims**

- To provide opportunities for the children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues which are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature.
- To explore and share common and different beliefs, and appreciate and respect the importance of these religious beliefs to those who hold them. (UNICEF Article 30)
- To think of the needs of others and develop a sense of community.
- To celebrate achievements of others within our school community.
- To re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of our school community.
- To explore feelings such as awe, wonder, love, joy and pride.
- To provide a time of quiet for reflection, meditation and prayer.
- To encourage the children to participate and respond in various ways, for example, through listening and active involvement.
- To provide opportunities for children to explore, discuss and appreciate The United Nation Convention’s Rights of the Child.
- To provide opportunities for children to develop an awareness of British Values.

### **The presentation of Collective Worship**

Presenters may include the Senior Leadership Team, other members of staff, Governors, groups of children and whole classes, and visiting speakers. Times of Collective Worship can be presented and enjoyed through a variety of ways such as using the children's work, music, singing, dance, drama, works of art, poetry, literature, video footage, photographs and the experience of real objects, artefacts, religious symbols and rituals.

### **Implementation**

The Head Teachers, senior leaders and class teachers are responsible for leading assemblies and visiting speakers may also be invited. Collective Worship, whether in assembly or in class bases will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils

### **Organisation**

Whole School Assembly takes place on Mondays, Tuesday and Fridays. Each year group also have a weekly Celebration Assembly. The remaining session is class based.

### **Management**

It is the duty of the Head teacher (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) and the Governing Body to see that these arrangements are carried out.

### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to Aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Shirley Infant School Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the learning undertaken in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich in-class learning through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

### **Special Needs, Disabilities and Equal Opportunities**

All pupils will have equal opportunities to access Collective Worship, regardless of their race, gender, cultural background, ability, or of any physical or sensory disability. Children are supported as necessary to access Collective Worship opportunities.

### **Health and Safety**

The general teaching requirement for Health and Safety applies to Collective Worship. The details of the school Health and Safety Policy can be accessed via the school website or the school office.

### **Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children. The school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE or collective worship, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE, or taking part in collective worship elsewhere. Children who are withdrawn by their parents will be provided with alternative activities in a safe environment. Parents need to give written notification to the Head teacher.

All staff, including the Head teacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The Head teacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.